

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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Behavioral Support & Special Programs Section Update

Opening the Lines of Communication...

Please review the following information about upcoming events and recent changes within our section. This document is provided in an attempt to enhance communication and provide support to each of your districts. We hope that you'll look forward to future editions!

Welcome to New Staff!

Submitted by Chris Alberti, DPI

We welcome Renee Bynum Banks who has joined the Behavioral Support & Special Programs section as Behavior Support Consultant. She will provide behavior support to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Charter Schools in Regions Three and Five. Prior to coming to DPI, Renee provided leadership to the Behavior Support Program of Durham Public Schools. She served as the Behavior Support Liaison and as the Social Worker/Assistant Behavior Support Liaison. She has also served as a Positive Behavior Support Coach and an Exceptional Children teacher for DPS. Renee brings a wealth of mental health, public schools and behavior support experience to the Exceptional Children Division.

Renee is married with 2 children: Lauren, a 19 years old college freshman, and Alexander, 4 years old. Renee spends much of her time attending Lauren's theatre events and Alexander's sports events. In her spare time, she loves to read, travel, and going to the movies.

PBS Web Meetings

Submitted by Julie Weatherman, DPI

Julie Weatherman, Region 8 PBS Coordinator, has initiated a bi-monthly web meeting for all Region 8 LEAs to offer schools an opportunity to gain information on important topics related to Positive Behavior Support. This meeting format has been created to offer schools current information and a Professional Development opportunity without the need to travel to a location. The meetings will be planned around a chosen topic related to implementation efforts and a time for Q & A will also be available at the end of the meeting. Each meeting will last for one hour. Administration, PBS Coaches, PBS Trainers, LEA Representatives, and PBS Teams are encouraged to attend. Meeting dates, times, and materials will be emailed before the scheduled meeting date. Please email or phone Julie if you have questions or ideas at jmweatherman@yanceync.net, 828-682-6101 x. 323.

PBS School Honored by the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium

Submitted by Heather Reynolds, DPI

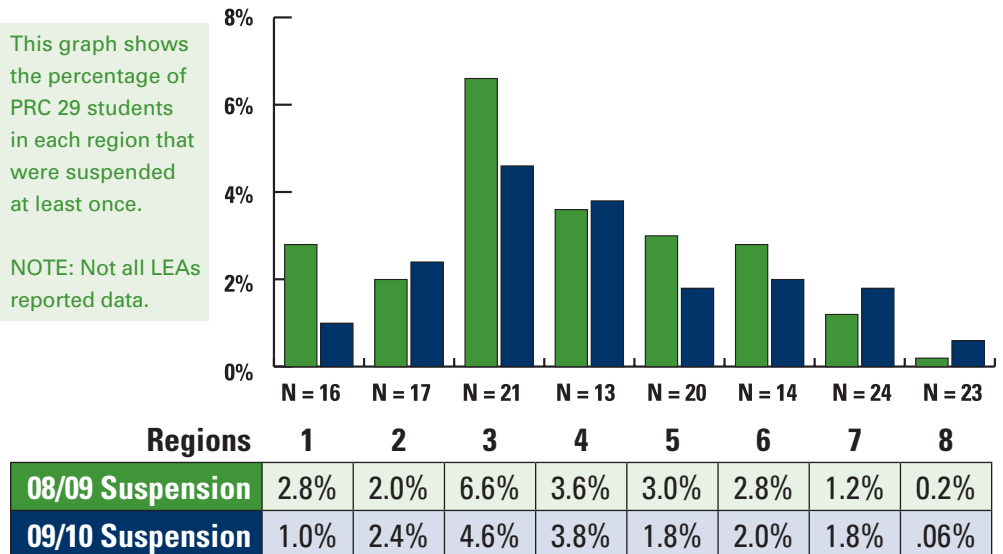
BH Tharrington Primary School, Mount Airy City Schools, was recently honored as a Signature School by the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium. Signature School criteria include the following indicators: implementation of innovative practices to increase the academic achievement of all students, documented increases in measurable outcomes (test data, lower dropout rate, lower incidences of rule infractions), and widespread (systemic) positive change throughout the school. In response to concerns of the local board of education about out of school suspension rates, selected staff members received initial training in Positive Behavior Support during the 2008-2009 school year. The intended outcome was to reduce incidences of office referrals and in-school/out of school suspensions. The entire staff embraced the proposed concepts then practiced and demonstrated the behaviors that they expected from their students.

Discipline referrals were reduced by 49% from the previous year and out of school suspensions were reduced by 48%. However, the added bonus was an increase in reading level achievement across grade levels which was attributed to fewer instances of disruption in the classroom. The school acknowledges the staff's ability to wholeheartedly commit to the program, focus on the positive, and work collaboratively and proactively as critical factors to their success.

PRC 29 Suspension Update

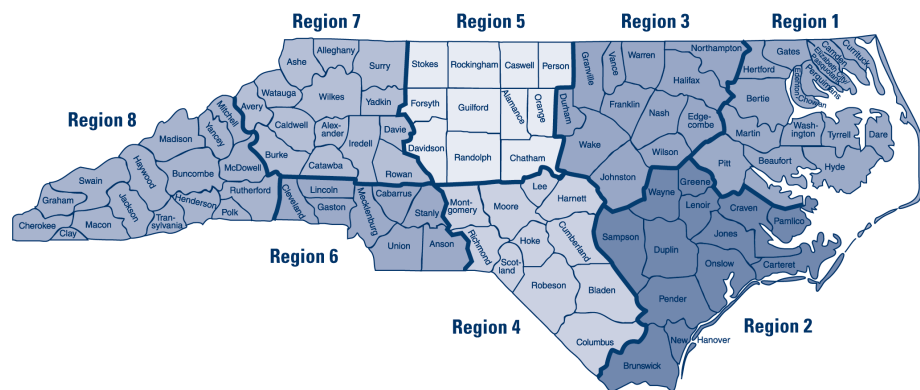
Submitted by Joe Simmons, DPI

Percentage of Suspension by Region for 08/09 and 09/10 data through December



Refer to the map on the next page that indicates LEAs within regions 1-8 above.

North Carolina Exceptional Children Division Statewide System of Support



PBS Bucket Fillers


Submitted by Jessica Yates, PBS School Coach, Brunswick County Schools

Virginia Williams Elementary School located in Bolivia, Brunswick County, recently joined our PBS family in Region 2. The team was trained in Module 1, and along with support from the staff, selected a theme to go along with their school-wide expectations: Staff and students are Bucket Fillers.

Based on the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud, the idea is that every person is born with an invisible bucket that is carried around with them all day. When people do or say kind things to us, our buckets get filled with happy thoughts and feelings. When we do or say kind things to others, we fill their buckets. These people are called Bucket Fillers. There are also Bucket Dippers. They dip into our buckets when they do or say unkind things. They steal our happy thoughts and feelings. (To learn more, visit the website www.bucketfillers101.com.)

The school-wide expectations for Virginia Williamson are: Bucket Fillers are respectful, responsible, cooperative, and problem-solvers. PBS implementation began in the hallways, cafeteria, and the buses. Appropriate behavior is rewarded with a "Thank You for Filling My Bucket" ticket with the school-wide expectations listed on the back. When a staff member observes a student meeting expectations, she or he checks which expectation has been met. Next, the student fills out his or her name and grade and places the ticket into a grade level bucket. Every Friday, three names are pulled from each grade's bucket, and the students are rewarded with a Bucket Filler pencil and a visit to the Stingray Store. (The stingray is the school's mascot.) The Stingray Store has coupons that students can cash in to get various rewards (extra recess, "renting" the teacher's chair, lunch with a friend, etc.)

Bus drivers participate in the same manner. Every Friday, three tickets are drawn from each bus bucket, and those students are rewarded with a Bucket Filler wristband and a visit to the Stingray Store. At the end of the month, the bus with the most total tickets is awarded the "Bucket Filling Bus of the Month" award, and a special recognition sign is placed in front of the bus's parking spot.



Appropriate cafeteria behavior is awarded with paper stingrays. On the wall in the cafeteria is poster representing each grade, and students are awarded stingrays for meeting the cafeteria expectations. They then put their stingrays on the poster under their grade level. At the end of the week, the grade level with the most stingrays is rewarded as a grade (popcorn, hat day, lunch in the classroom, etc.)

Staff members are also rewarded when exhibiting the appropriate school-wide expectations. Staff members fill out a ticket explaining who filled their bucket and why and place it in the staff member's mailbox. On Fridays, all tickets go into a staff bucket, and one name is pulled. That person is rewarded with a Bucket Filler tote bag filled with goodies (cardstock, paper, markers, candy, local business coupons, etc.) At the end of the month, another name is pulled from the bucket and rewarded with the "Bucket Filler of the Month" front row parking spot.

Things are going great! Staff and students at Virginia Williamson Elementary School are enthusiastic about being bucket fillers!

Funding Reminders

Submitted by Chris Alberti, DPI

Funding continues to be available for the 2009-2010 school year in the following funding programs. Reminders/tips are listed after each fund.

- **Developmental Day Center (DDC) – PRC 63** – Send in a new roster when applying for additional slots. All teachers providing special education to preschool children placed by the LEA in developmental day centers must have either the Preschool Add-On license, or Birth-Kindergarten (B-K) license. The deadline to submit an application for the 2009-10 school year is May 15, 2010. LEAs should have received notice by now that the NC Child Care Commission is proposing to adopt rules regarding Developmental Day Services. In past years, rules for Developmental Day Services have been under the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Information sent to developmental day centers and LEAs includes procedures for commenting on the proposed rules which are scheduled to be effective on July 1, 2010.
- **Community Residential Center (CRC) – PRC 63** – Funds may be used for ESY services. ESY must be part of the child's IEP. The deadline for application submission is May 15, 2010.
- **Group Home/Foster Home (GFH) – PRC 32 and PRC 60** – The application must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the eligible student enrolls in the LEA. Many requests were received from LEAs in January for children who enrolled on August 25 (the deadline for these children was October 25, 2009.) A child cannot receive Group/Foster Home, Special State Reserve and Behavioral Support funds in the same year. The LEA must determine which application is most appropriate. The deadline for application submission is May 15, 2010.
- **Out-of-District Placement (OOD) – PRC 60** – The LEA should exhaust all possible in-state residential placements before placing a child out-of-state. The billing is annual and the Out-of-District Placement Reimbursement Invoice should be submitted by May 15, 2010. The estimated amount of funds for reimbursement will be up to but not more than 50% of the total cost of educational placement.



- **Special State Reserve (SSRF) – PRC 63** – Any student receiving Average Daily Membership (ADM), Federal IDEA, Part B, 611/619 or State Exceptional Children Funds from your LEA is not eligible to receive Special State Reserve funds. An application must be submitted within 60 days of the student's enrollment in your school system. The deadline for submitting an application is May 15, 2010. At this time, Special State Reserve funds are very limited.
 - **Risk Pool – PRC 114** – An application must be submitted within 60 days of the student's enrollment in your school system. An itemized list, including prices, must be included with materials/equipment requests. Information submitted under the code description section of the application such as "\$5,000.00 for assistive technology" is not specific and delays the determination process. Remember that funds for both Risk Pool and Special State Reserve are child specific and the requests for equipment must be specifically for the child in the application. Follow the guidelines for reversion of funds when students withdraw. Both Risk Pool and Special State Reserve require a reversion form to be sent with the amount to be reverted. Unspent funds cannot be used for other expenses in the LEA/Charter School.
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